

REMARKS

Claims 1-15 are pending in the present application. Claims 1, 3, 4, 8-10, 14 and 15 have been amended.

Drawings

Applicant notes the Examiner's acceptance of the drawings as filed along with the present application.

Claim Objections

Claims 1, 6, 10 and 14 have been objected to for the reasons as stated on page 2 of the current Office Action dated June 19, 2009. The claims have correspondingly been corrected. The Examiner is therefore respectfully requested to withdraw the claim objections.

Claim Rejections-35 U.S.C. 112

Claims 4, 8, 9 and 15 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite. The claims have been amended to be in better compliance with 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph. In particular, claim 9 is now dependent on claim, and the term "K" in claim 9 is defined in claim 8. The Examiner is respectfully requested to withdraw this rejection.

Allowable Subject Matter

Applicant notes the Examiner's acknowledgement that claim 14 is allowed. Also, the remaining claims should now be allowable for the reasons as stated above, and because there are no outstanding prior art rejections. The Examiner is thus respectfully requested to acknowledge that claims 1-15 are allowed.

Conclusion

The claims have been amended directly responsive to the issues raised by the Examiner, not to further distinguish over any cited prior art. This should be readily clear, because no prior art rejections have been applied and also in view of the acknowledgement of allowable subject matter. Accordingly, the claim amendments should not be construed as narrowing claim scope within the meaning of *Festo*.

The Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider and withdraw the corresponding rejections, and to pass the claims of the present application to issue, for at least the above reasons.

In the event that there are any outstanding matters remaining in the present application, please contact Andrew J. Telesz, Jr. (Reg. No. 33,581) at (571) 283-0720 in the Washington, D.C. area, to discuss these matters.

Serial No. 10/594,608

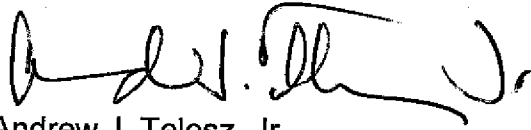
ALB.027

Amendment dated September 18, 2009

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment for any additional fees that may be required, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 50-0238.

Respectfully submitted,

VOLENTINE & WHITT, P.L.L.C.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "A. J. Telesz, Jr.", written over a horizontal line.

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